BOOM! STUDIOS™

JAMES TYNION IV

WERTHER DELL'EDERA

MIQUEL MUERTO

Nº 4

SOMETHING IS KILLING the CHILDREN™

HOUSE DEPOT

NOW THIS...THIS ONE'S A BEAUT.

I GET PROFESSIONALS IN HERE A LOT. LANDSCAPERS AND THAT SORT. THEY SWEAR BY THIS MODEL. IT CAN TEAR THROUGH JUST ABOUT ANY WOOD YOU COULD WANT, BUT IT'S GOT THESE SENSORS...

IF YOU DROP IT, OR LOSE CONTROL OF THE HANDLE, IT'LL STOP DEAD, BEFORE IT STOPS ***YOU*** DEAD.

NOW YOU ***KNOW*** I'VE GOT THE CRAPPY, RUNDOWN MODELS THAT YOU CAN DROP AND THEY WON'T STOP GOING 'TIL THEY'VE CHEWED THROUGH YOUR LEG, OR JUST ABOUT ANYTHING.

THOSE BEASTS HAVE A MIND OF THEIR OWN. BUT I DON'T LIKE SELLING THOSE MODELS. IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO A THING, YOU WANT TO DO IT RIGHT. YOU WANT ***TOP*** OF THE LINE.

CAN I SEE THE CRAPPY, RUNDOWN MODELS?

SORRY?

THE ONES THAT KEEP RIPPING THROUGH ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING LIKE THEY'VE GOT A MIND OF THEIR OWN.

MA'AM, I THINK YOU'VE MISUNDER-STOOD.

I WANT TO SEE THOSE MODELS, HENRY. PLEASE. I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.

YOU'VE GOT...YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF RENOVATIONS COMING UP, DON'T YOU?

YEAH.

LOOK AT THIS THING! IT'S SCARY, RIGHT?

YEAH. PUT IT IN THE CART.

MA'AM...

WHICH OF THESE IS THE WILDEST, BUT WON'T GET CAUGHT ON SOMETHING UNUSUAL IF IT GETS IN THE WAY? SOMETHING THAT'LL JUST RIP THROUGH.

AND CORDLESS. I NEED CORDLESS.

I GUESS... I GUESS THIS ONE WOULD DO THE JOB.

OKAY THEN. LET'S GET TO THE REGISTERS.

I'M PAYING CASH.

DAD, YOU IN HERE?

JESUS...

JUSS LEAVE IT. DAMMIT, CYNTHIA, I TOLD YOU NOT TO TRY AND MAKE HOUSE.

DAD. IT'S TOMMY.

OH.

FUCK. I'M NAKED.

YEAH. I SAW THAT.

DON'T FUCKING LOOK. FUCKING HELL...

I'M NOT TRYING. TRUST ME.

HOW'S YOUR MOTHER?

CALL HER IF YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW.

WHAT THE HELL TIME IS IT, ANYWAY? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

IS THERE... IS THERE NEWS...?

IS SOPHIE...

DID THEY FIND HER BODY?

NO, DAD.

LOOK. IT'S NOTHING. I'LL GET OUT OF YOUR HAIR, OKAY? I'M SORRY I BOTHERED YOU.

JUST CALL FIRST NEXT TIME.

I CALLED YOU LIKE SEVEN TIMES. PLUG YOUR FUCKING PHONE IN.

YEAH. OKAY.

YOU GET IT?

YEAH.

YEAH, I DID.

I DON'T LIKE THIS.

I MEAN... I DON'T BLAME YOU. IT'S PRETTY GROSS.

POP

TIM...

HEY, BABY BROTHER. I LOOK AT BODIES ALL DAY. IF I'M SAYING IT'S GROSS, THAT MEANS I'M TAKING IT SERIOUS.

YOU KNOW WHAT'S THE WEIRDEST PART OF ALL OF THIS...?

PREDATORS GO FOR THE KILL. IF THEY WANT TO STOP YOU, THEY GO FOR THE SOFT TISSUE.

FASTER THEY GET THE KILL, LESS LIKELY YOU ARE TO DO IT SOME DAMAGE. THEN THEY CAN GET THE ***MEAT*** EASY.

BUT THIS THING DIDN'T ***WANT*** MEAT. NOT REALLY. IT RIPS INTO THEM, BUT THEN LEAVES THEM WHOLE.

PEOPLE, ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THEY'RE IN A KILLING MOOD AND THEY'RE ANGRY...THEY KNOW WHAT HURTS ***THEM,*** AND THAT'S WHERE THEY WANT TO HURT ***YOU.*** THEY WANT TO DRAW IT OUT.

THESE KILLINGS. THERE'S INTENT HERE...THERE'S... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PUT IT.

THERE'S SOME SCARY SHIT AT WORK.

POP

IF I HAD TO PUT TOGETHER A DESCRIPTION OF WHAT THIS IS, IT'S A HORRIBLE ***PERVERT*** SOMEHOW USING A ***BEAR'S HEAD*** TO KILL KIDS, BECAUSE HE ***HATES*** THEM.

BUT I'LL ADMIT, I MIGHT JUST BE TALKING BECAUSE I HAD A FEW BEERS ON MY LUNCH BREAK EARLIER.

DAMMIT, TIM.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO PUSHED HIS BROTHER TO TAKE UP THE JOB OF CORONER.

TOLD ME IT'D BE A QUIET JOB. MOSTLY HUNTING ACCIDENTS AND OLD PEOPLE.

YEAH, THAT'S WHAT THEY PROMISED ME, TOO.

THE PROBLEM IS THE ENTRYWAY TO THE HOUSE. CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT COULD DO THAT, AND KILL ALL THOSE GIRLS...

...BUT NOT LEAVE A SINGLE TRACK, OR SEEMINGLY TOUCH A ***SINGLE*** PIECE OF FURNITURE INSIDE THIS HOUSE?

CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT THE FUCK CAN DO THAT?

POP

SURE THE FUCK CAN'T, BABY BROTHER.

SHERIFF, YOU HAVE A PHONE CALL.

THIS REALLY ISN'T THE TIME.

SIR...

HE... HE CALLED MY PERSONAL CELL PHONE AND HE ASKED FOR *YOU.*

HE KNEW... THINGS ABOUT ME. THINGS HE COULDN'T POSSIBLY KNOW...

AND THEN HE MENTIONED A BLONDE WOMAN...

WHO EXACTLY AM I TALKING TO?

YES.

THIS IS SHERIFF JOSEPH CAVANAUGH OF ARCHER'S PEAK, WISCONSIN?

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY ABOUT THE TROUBLES YOUR TOWN IS FACING RIGHT NOW. I WOULD LIKE TO DO WHAT I CAN TO HELP.

YEAH, I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO TELL ME WHO YOU ARE.

I'M A FRIEND, JOSEPH, IF YOU DECIDE A FRIEND IS WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.

YOU SENT ERICA HERE. YOU'RE...YOU'RE IN THIS WITH HER.

OH, SHERIFF CAVANAUGH, YOU MUST HAVE REALIZED BY NOW...

ERICA SLAUGHTER ISN'T WITH *ANYBODY.*

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN

I...I HAD A QUESTION.

WHAT DID WE SAY ABOUT QUESTIONS?

THAT THEY ARE SMART TO ASK WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT TO ENTER A LIFE-AND-DEATH SCENARIO.

HM. FAIR.
OKAY, SHOOT.

WHAT ARE MONSTERS?

THEY'RE BIG SCARY THINGS THAT EAT CHILDREN.

OKAY.

WHAT, DID YOU THINK THERE WAS A BIGGER ANSWER THAN THAT?

I MEAN, YEAH. OF COURSE. THERE ***HAS*** TO BE A BIGGER ANSWER THAN THAT.

MONSTERS AREN'T ***REAL.***

OF COURSE THEY ARE. YOU'VE SEEN ONE OF THEM. IT ATE YOUR FRIENDS.

BUT WHY...***WHY*** DID IT EAT MY FRIENDS?

BECAUSE THEY COULD SEE IT. BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED IN IT.

I DIDN'T BELIEVE IN MONSTERS. AND I DON'T THINK THEY DID EITHER...

YEAH, YOU DID. OF COURSE YOU DID. BELIEVING IS A DIFFERENT THING THAN KNOWING.

YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT THERE AREN'T MONSTERS IN THE WORLD.

BUT YOU DON'T ***BELIEVE*** THAT. NOT REALLY. YOU HEAR A NOISE IN THE WOODS, OR SEE A SHADOW SHAPED WRONG, AND YOU'RE STILL AFRAID.

IT'S BECAUSE YOUR BRAIN'S STILL DEVELOPING. YOU'RE NOT FULLY COOKED YET.

H-HEY.

THAT'S JUST TRUE. AND THAT CAN GIVE YOU AN ADVANTAGE.

HOW DO YOU MEAN?

YOU CAN SEE THEM.

ADULTS CAN'T.

ARE YOU YOUNGER THAN YOU LOOK OR SOMETHING?

HOW?

THERE ARE WAYS YOU CAN ***MAKE*** YOURSELF SEE THEM.

I'M NOT GIVING YOU ANY IDEAS WHEN YOU HAVE A SHOPPING CART FULL OF WEAPONS. YOU CAN ALREADY SEE THEM...AND WHEN YOU'RE OLDER, YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO FORGET.

NO, I WON'T.

YES, JAMES. YOU WILL. AND YOU'LL BE BETTER FOR IT. OKAY?

OKAY. THIS IS WHERE I'M GOING TO GO IN.

WHY HERE?

THE FIRST GIRL. SARA WASHINGTON. SHE WENT MISSING A HALF MILE UP THE ROAD. THIS TYPE OF MONSTER...IT LIKES TO MAKE A NEST FOR ITSELF. I KNOW THE SORTS OF PLACES IT LIKES.

LAKE MICHIGAN IS JUST A MILE DOWN THAT HILL. I'LL FIND ITS DEN ON THE COAST.

YOU MEAN ***WE'LL*** FIND THE DEN.

NO, JAMES. I DON'T.

YOU... YOU TOLD ME I COULD HELP.

YOU PICKED A WEAPON. YOU HELPED ME WITH THE MAP.

THAT'S BULLSHIT! I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT THIS WASHINGTON GIRL. SHE WASN'T ON YOUR LISTS! YOU TOLD ME I COULD ***HELP*** YOU.

YOU PROMISED.

=SIGH=

IF YOU FOLLOW ME, YOU NEED TO DO EXACTLY WHAT I SAY, OKAY? IF WE FIND A CERTAIN TYPE OF DEN, I AM NOT GOING TO LET YOU INSIDE. THESE THINGS CAN GET... STRONGER.

AND THE WAY THEY GET STRONGER IS HORRIBLE.

I'VE *SEEN* HORRIBLE ALREADY.

NOT LIKE THIS.

PROMISE ME. IF WE GET THERE AND I TELL YOU TO STAY OUTSIDE OF THE CAVE, YOU'LL STAY THERE. IF YOU DON'T PROMISE, THEN I'M NOT TAKING YOU.

OKAY. I PROMISE.

THE FUCK ARE YOU TWO DOING...?

JOHN. YOU THERE?

YEAH.

YOU GOT EYES ON THE SLAUGHTER GIRL?

I DID BEFORE SHE TOOK A SHOPPING CART FULL OF KNIVES INTO THE FUCKING FOREST. I NEED TO GET MY GOOD BOOTS OUT OF THE TRUNK IF I'M GOING TO FOLLOW HER.

DON'T FOLLOW HER.

WHAT?

YOU HEARD ME. I DON'T WANT YOU TO FOLLOW HER.

JOE. YOU CAN'T BE--

I'M FUCKING SERIOUS. JUST LEAVE IT BE. LET HER...LET HER DO WHAT SHE'S GOING TO DO.

JOE. WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU? WHY DO YOU SOUND SO SCARED?

OVER AND OUT.

WELL, FUCK THAT.

OFFICER RICHARDS?

HUH?

THAT'S YOUR NAME, RIGHT? OFFICER RICHARDS. YOU INTERVIEWED ME AFTER WE LOST SOPHIE.

OH, YEAH. RIGHT. MAHONEY FAMILY. YOUR NAME'S TOMMY, RIGHT?

YEAH. THAT'S ME.

WHACK

YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE TO KEEP HER LOCKED UP, AND YOU DIDN'T.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT...THAT'S ON *YOU.*

STOP.
WHAT IS IT?
WE'RE HERE.
WHAT'S WRONG?
THIS... IS BIGGER THAN IT SHOULD BE.
WHAT'S THAT *SMELL?*
NO...
YOU KNEW THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN, DIDN'T YOU? YOU LITTLE PIECE OF SHIT.
YOU'RE SCARING ME...

JAMES. I NEED YOU TO HIDE BEHIND THAT RIDGE UP THERE. DO NOT COME OUT, I DON'T CARE ***WHAT*** YOU HEAR.

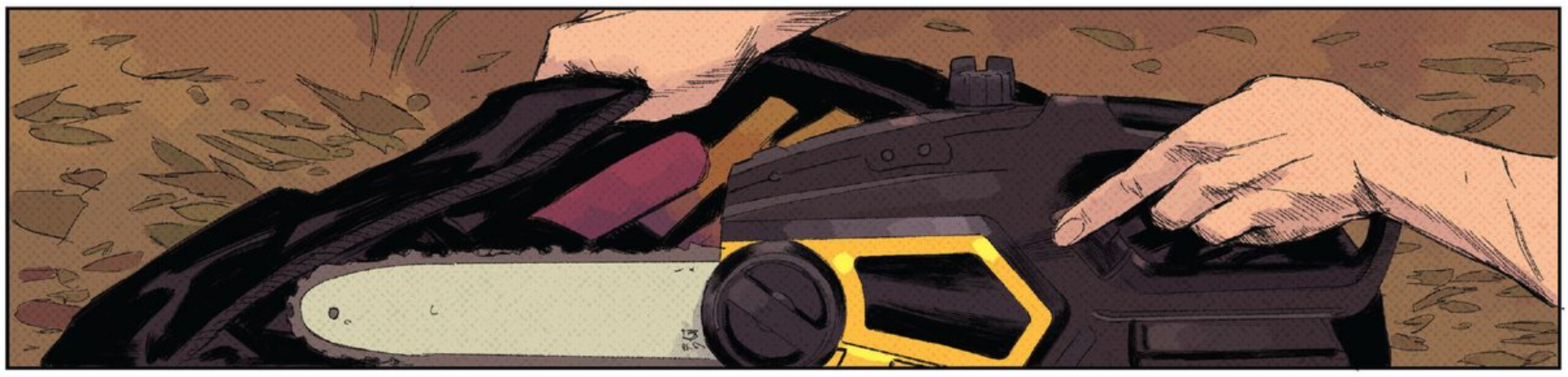
WAIT.

TAKE THESE.

NOW GO.

ERICA...

I'M NOT ASKING. GO.



GRK FLSH

I...I KNEW IT...

I KNEW YOU DID THIS...

WHAT...

YOU FUCKING ***KILLED*** THEM. YOU KILLED ***ALL*** OF THEM.

AND NOW, YOU'RE GOING TO PAY...

TOMMY...

TOMMY, YOU NEED TO GET DOWN NOW...

NOT A CHANCE.

SOMETHING is KILLING the CHILDREN™

"THE ANGEL OF ARCHER'S PEAK"
PART FOUR

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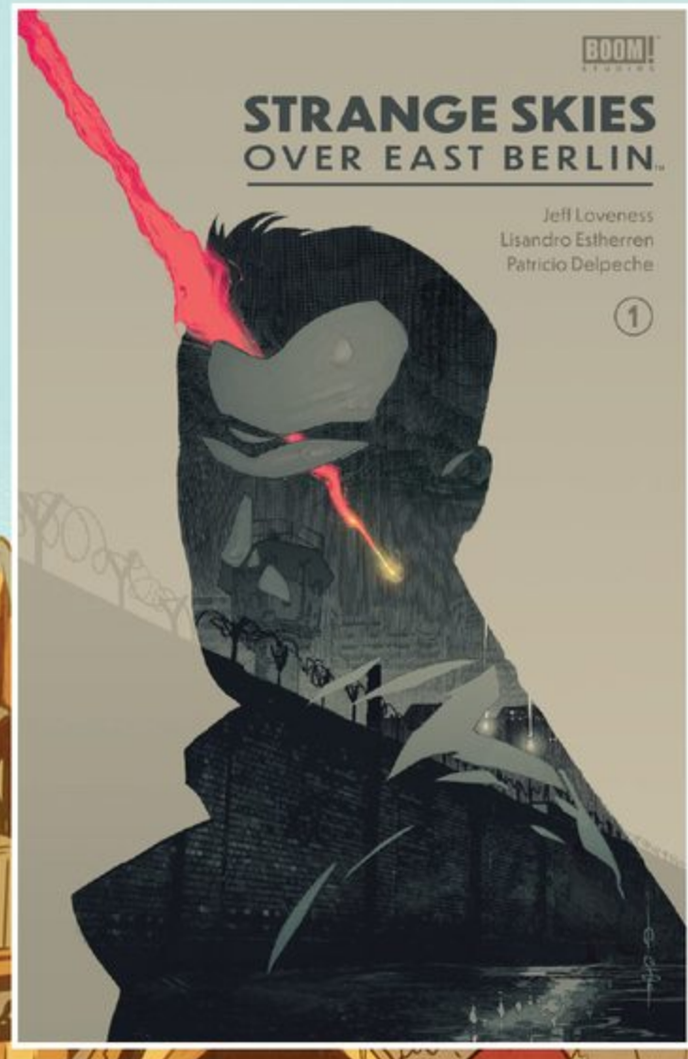

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SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"